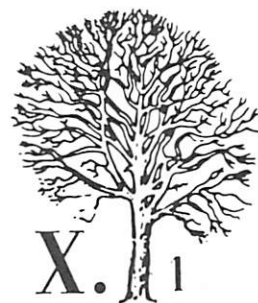


ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Spring 1985



ACORN X - 1

SPRING 1985

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P9

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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EDITORIAL

Here is a thought which was written in 1715. It is as bright, clear to the point, and pertinent today as when it was written. It is ACORN in a nutshell. —

“What ever is good in its kinde ought to be preserv'd in respect to antiquity, as well as our present advantage, for destruction can be profitable to none but such as live by it.”

This was written by Nicholas Hawksmoor in his explanation of designs for All Souls College, Oxford, in 1715.

The Conservancy wishes to welcome a new group. While not as yet completely organized, Durham will be the tenth branch to come into the fold.

Marion Walker Garland

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that monthly Council meetings are open to anyone who would like to be present — Council member or not. Admittedly space is rather limited in our present quarters but I can assure you, that even in the role of observer, attendance will prove informative and rewarding. And you will be welcome!

The twelve month gap between Annual General Meetings is a long one and — despite the best efforts of the editor and contributors to ACORN — there must be occasions when some members wonder what is going on at Head Office. Usually, the answer is 'quite a lot'. It is a rare Council meeting that does not involve subtle, and sometimes more obvious, attempts at compression by our President in order to fit animated discussion within the allotted time.

A recent meeting will serve as a typical example. In addition to reports from the financial and other standing committees as well as from the Branches a number of matters of continuing interest were covered. (It was also a particularly happy occasion for the ACO as it marked the first time that the newly formed Durham branch had been represented at Council). Three of the items which engaged Council's attention related to Heritage House, the ACO financial campaign and the Eric Arthur Memorial Fund.

As members may be aware, the Heritage House proposal involves the purchase by Ontario Heritage Foundation of #10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto for rental to heritage groups . . . as office and meeting space. It is hoped that rents can be kept to a modest amount and there will be common facilities, equipment etc., which can be used and shared by all participants. It is an intriguing concept. Council has not yet made any decision regarding the role of ACO, other than to express general support, pending a clearer picture of the financial commitment which would be required. We would appreciate your comments.

The financial campaign is co-chaired by messrs. Kenneth Clarke and William B. Moffet. Considerable care has been given to its direction in order to avoid any possible conflict with local, branch, fund-raising programmes.

I am delighted to report that the Eric Arthur Memorial Fund has now reached a point where we can consider making an award, together with a small monetary prize, at this year's Annual General Meeting. Peter Stokes is drawing up the terms of reference which will be circulated to schools of architecture and other educational institutions. This will be an annual award. There is still time to contribute: generous membership participation will ensure not only a fitting tribute but will help foster an awareness and appreciation of our architectural heritage and encourage its appropriate documentation.

This report has presented some important issues in rather broad brush strokes. If you cannot attend a Council meeting perhaps you can accept an alternative invitation, namely, to write to me or to your Branch representative if you would like further particulars or have some suggestions to share. The ACO office address is 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P9.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Howard V. Walker

QUINTE REGION

January 20, 1985 Meeting

Medals should be given to the owners of the six buildings that the Branch visited on January 20 in Picton, for their sympathetic adaptation of old buildings to modern purposes. We saw a whole gamut of different approaches, from simple maintenance to thorough-going rebuilding, from historical restoration to the addition of modernistic appendages. But in every case the intentions of the original builder have been respected, the style of the building perpetuated, and an interesting slice of history maintained. In each case the integrity of the street-scape is preserved in a way that an entirely new building might not allow.

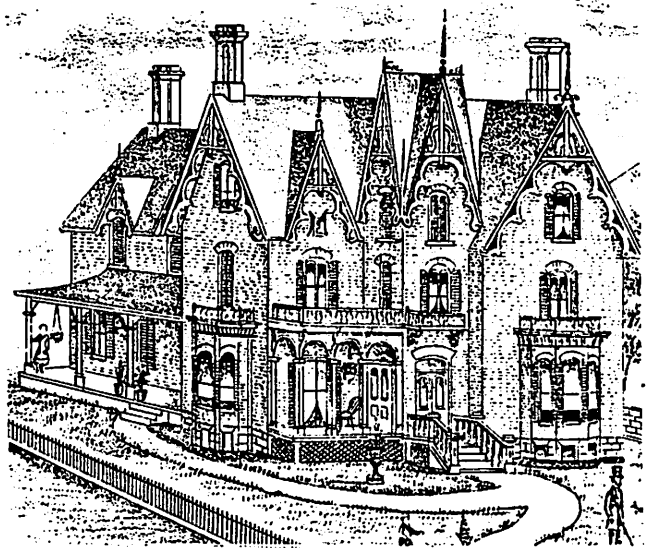
Forty-two people attended the tour, a little down from our average for Prince Edward tours, but remember that this was the weekend of disastrous cold all through the east, and even the U.S. president's inaugural parade was cancelled. Our visitors came from Trenton, Belleville, Stirling, Lonsdale, Napanee, and Adolphustown, as well as various parts of Prince Edward County.

We assembled at the County of Prince Edward Archives. This is housed in the old registry office at 334 Main Street in Picton, built in the early 1870s to a design seen all over the province with small variations. Napanee has just finished mangling theirs, and Guelph and Belleville have torn theirs down for parking, but the one in Picton remains virtually unchanged from the day it was built, apart from the furniture inside. There is no reason why such a building should not stand for a thousand years if the roof is maintained, built as it is of vaulted brick with floors of stone, with iron doors and cast-iron windowsills; even the exterior cornices are sheathed in metal, against fire. The County have designated it under Ontario's Heritage Act and opened it as their Archives under an agreement with the Prince Edward Historical Society. A medal for the County.

At the Archives, we viewed photos of the interiors of 341 Main St. about 1905, when the James Hepburn family lived there. This is a substantial brick house of about 1883, and we walked past on our tour. The Hepburns seem to have made a number of comfortable improvements to the house, presumably including the generous verandah that we see today. The Archives has a collection of invoices relating to the Hepburn occupancy, and a lot of Hepburn family pictures that help to re-create an impression of life in Picton in those spacious days. We ought to award a seventh medal, to Tom and Dorothy Walker for maintaining the place in its old-fashioned splendour.

and particularly for adding the graceful gazebo in the front garden.

Lawrie Ackerman and Peter Sage and Pat Calnan showed us through the Merrill house, currently being rebuilt for top-flight tourist accommodation. We have found a picture and plans for just about the same design in a builder's pattern book of the early 1870s. It was called there a "Cottage", a surprising term for one of the larger houses in Picton and probably the most noticeable. But you can see what was meant. for the plan is irregular and informal, and those plunging rooflines might be seen to clip the house to the ground, like a clothes-pin. The house has been gutted, so that we were walking through a mysterious forest of bare studs strung with modern pipes and wires. The original cosy rooms of the front part of the house will be restored much as they were built (we think about 1878), with their impressive wood trim and fine floors. A good deal has been newly added on to the back, but the steep gables match. and no one will ever realize. Landscaping was completed last fall, so that the place will appear complete when it opens in the spring. Fred Weeks, the owner, is undertaking similar tourist homes in two or three other places, under the name of Someplaces



Merrill house, with Legion Hall on right. From Belden's Atlas of 1878, courtesy of the County of Prince Edward Archives. Note below the picture, "J. W. Fegan, Master Builder."

Different. He surely deserves some kind of medal.

The Royal Canadian Legion Hall, next door, is a square house with wings, built of yellow brick. The caps over the windows are Gothic, but otherwise the house is mildly Italianate. One realizes, of course, that these three houses are all on the Washburn property and that the old Washburn house of perhaps

1835, now the Anglican rectory, is still in behind. The Legion Hall was likely built about 1864, then the Merrill house, and then the Colton-Hepburn-Walker house, all slices off the Washburns' front premises.

The Legion Hall was built for Walter Ross, M.P. but it is better remembered as the McMullen house. A McMullen's money went to create the Pacific Scandal that put John A Macdonald out of office in 1873, before McMullens owned this house. McMullens owned the County's railway line for a while too.

The McMullen house is quite grand. Woodrow Blakely showed us through. We admired the cast-iron radiator enclosures in particular (much like those in the Allison house, the Loyalist Museum, at Adolphustown), and the plaster ceiling medallions with ears of corn mingled with acanthus leaves. The parlour on the right is especially fine, with classical columns and curving walls at one end. There is a similar room at Rickarton Castle on the other side of town — a tavern now, and all painted black inside. but once a most gracious home and not unlike this.

Mr. Blakely showed us the hall, added on during his presidency at the Legion. The Legion could have built something of concrete blocks in the spacious front yard, but they chose instead to subordinate the new wing, setting it quite low on the ground and well over to the side. They faced it with yellow brick to harmonize with the original house, and made an arched entrance, obviously modern but in keeping. A medal for the Legion!

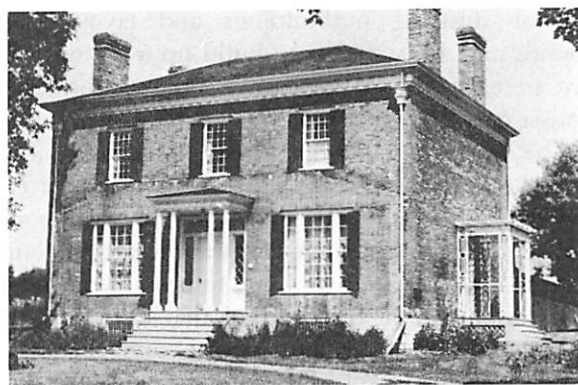
We went into the County Building or "Shire Hall". built about the same time as the old registry office and nearly a match for it but larger — like big and little brothers sitting companionably side by side. Belden's Atlas of 1878 describes the council chamber as being one of the best and most convenient they have seen anywhere. The entire building, not long ago, was lined with so-called "panelling" just like anyone's basement rec room, but this gaffe has been somewhat atoned for by the judicious addition of chair-rails and cornices to give better proportions to the wall-spaces, by the addition of coloured fabric coverings on some walls, and by new and more dramatic lighting, so that at least a sense of well-being has been induced and at small expense.

We went into the cells in the basement of the new wing, and thought they might merit a prize for cleanliness and absolute minimalism. This new wing of the Shire Hall has aroused a good deal of comment for its trendy modernistic style, appearing as it does to be a metal skeleton filled in with mirror. Partly it is just a skin, of course, enclosing a brick wing that was already there. It is downright spooky, too, to look out of the Archives window at the mirror and not know who is looking in at you through the one-way glass. But this reflecting skin ties together what might have

been a clutter of new offices and services, without appearing too substantial at all. And at night, with the floodlighting turned on, it reflects the old registry office and sets it off most dramatically. So the County Council gets another medal, not only for trying to do the best for their fine old Hall but for their concern about the grouping of the Hall and the Archives building. And that's a rare concern in any place or time.

After tea at the Archives, and more looking at the collections there, we departed by car for the County Museum on the other side of town, where Tom Kuglin, the curator, had everything ready for us. This is the old St. Mary Magdalene church, abandoned nearly eighty years ago by a congregation centred more on the fashionable side of town. A second floor has been inserted internally for display and meeting space, but there is a charming note of ambiguity in that the chancel area has been restored like the late Victorian church it was. The County gets yet another medal for all this, but will have to share it with the curator, who has been making subtle changes to make the place yet more interesting.

After holding our brief monthly meeting of the Conservancy Branch in the church-pews at the Museum, we trudged through the snow to the Rectory next door. We couldn't follow William Macaulay's curving cinder path past his family grave plot and through his stone wall and across to his front door, for snow, but went around by the driveway instead and approached beneath his gigantic locust trees.



The Macaulay House

Macaulay built the rectory for his own use just about 1830. Apparently no other rector lived in it after 1874 when William died, the parish being more attached to the opposite side of town. William refers to "Delhi" in a letter of 1835, and that's what folks call his part today. Perhaps it got its name in jest as being the ceremonial capital, with church and court house — in which case the other side, the commercial capital, may have been "Calcutta". We've found no evidence.

Our group, now reduced to thirty-five, congre-

gated in the hospitable 1830 kitchen around a cheerful wood fire, and in the slightly later summer kitchen around a box stove, and unpacked our bountiful pot-luck supper, kept hot all afternoon for us by the efficient curator. Everyone seems to have got home in good order afterwards, though newspaper headlines next day said "BLIZZARD CLOSES PRINCE EDWARD".

Macaulay House is familiar to many visitors. Kitchen and restored portico must look very much as in 1830, but in general the house is restored to represent 1853, the year when Macaulay, having lost his first wife and come into some money, took a second wife and a new lease on life. The front hall represents this later period, with its 1830 partition removed to display the staircase; so does the enlarged parlour with toilet (now a modern kitchenette) behind. It's a good bet that there was a glassed-in conservatory off the new French doors in the 1850s, and William will surely have had a furnace in the old dairy beneath the parlour, with the pipe running up through parlour and principal bedroom. Stoves probably continued to heat the hall and some other rooms. The new iron grates set with their marble mantels in front of the big old fireplaces of the front rooms were quite efficient, but were meant partly for ventilation and partly for genteel effect, not for continuous heat. As for the front door, that had to be sawed in two by the 1840s so that it could open into a portable storm porch that we know of from family letters, comfort and economy taking precedence over style.

The County's Museum Board have made a beginning of studying outbuildings and layout of the grounds and are working to build up a picture of life here in early days. We'll have to give the County another medal.

The Conservancy Branch are planning a meeting in similar format — tour, meeting, supper — for every month in 1985, only with less snow. Half of the meetings are along the route of the newly-proclaimed Loyalist Parkway, and we hope to promote an interest in the architectural resources of that area in particular. The public is always invited, and there is no charge. Here is the schedule:

Jan. 20 — Picton	July 21 — Adolphustown
Feb. 17 — Trenton	Aug. 18 — Brighton
(annual meeting)	Sept. 15 — Deseronto
March 17 — Napanee	Oct. 20 — Bath
April 21 — Tweed	Nov. 17 — Stirling
May 19 — Wellington	Dec. 15 — Belleville
June 16 — Lonsdale	

PORT HOPE

Despite the January cold snap, Port Hope's Canadian National Railway station project continues

— on time and on budget. The \$200,000 project begun in November had a slight setback when a space heater in the station caused a fire that damaged the floorboards in the immediate vicinity. Fortunately the fire was spotted early and was promptly extinguished by firefighters.

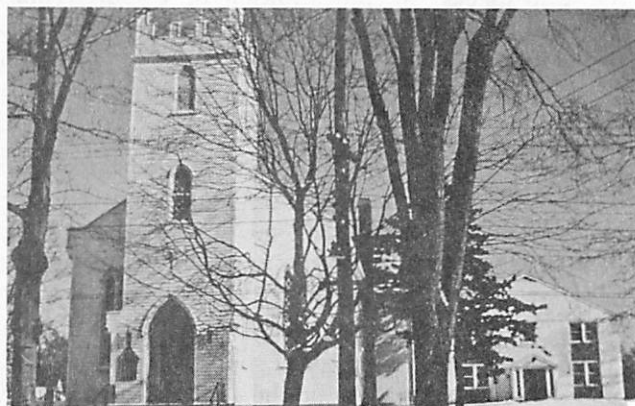
The 1984 House Tour grossed approximately \$15,000 and the 1985 tour is already in the planning stages. The date is set for Saturday, October 5th and the House Tour Committee is meeting regularly to make sure that the 1985 tour will be no less successful. There is already a demand for tickets at this early date.

Events planned for the next months include a public tour of inspection of the recently restored Midland Hotel (funds raised from the inspection of this privately owned building are to be used for the purchase of lighting for the CN station) a Heritage Day reception, several evenings of members' travel slide shows, a barbecue in July and a film night with films borrowed from the Ontario Museums Association.



C.N. Station Port Hope prior to renovation.

Our branch of the A.C.O. has just received a plaque from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the Ontario Heritage Foundation which reads as follows: 'in appreciation of your contribution to Ontario's heritage during the Province's bicentennial year'. Plans are being made to display the plaque in the newly restored C.N. Station when work is completed.



St. Mark's Church visited on 1984 house tour.

TORONTO REGION

At the November meeting of the Toronto Region Branch, Mr. William Greer provided an excellent summary of the exacting restoration of Spadina House. The renovation/preservation was begun in 1983 and is expected to continue well into 1987 although on March 6, 1984, the main floor rooms were opened to the public. The project has involved over 500 people, from archaeologists through to Consumers' Gas, the Garden Club of Toronto, the City of Toronto, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The work saw the photographing, recording and cataloguing of slides, of artifacts, of furnishings and of work in progress, and involved everything from stripping and examining 17 successive layers of paint and/or wallpapers, rebuilding rotting wooden sashes, discovering the 1818 brick oven of the first kitchen, rebuilding the flower and vegetable gardens, greenhouse, roadways, verandahs, outbuildings, porte cochère, ironwork, sewage facility, plaster, etc. In all instances the restoration was done using, as much as possible, the original materials, preserving these to the extent possible so as to re-create the building and its contents. Mr. Greer was able to furnish valuable insights into both the ethical and operational aspects of the Spadina House re-birth as well as the exceptional results which can be obtained through painstaking and careful attention to detail with a sound financial basis.

Our very successful Christmas Potluck was held at Etobicoke's Montgomery Inn. The members enjoyed an informative tour of this historic inn which showed to advantage the preservation and renovation of the original premises. The inn was built around 1830 and until 1857 was enjoyed as a local drinking spot, community meeting area, and provided accommodation and meals. Between 1877 when Montgomery died, and 1960 it was used variously as a home, warehouse, market garden centre, etc. In 1960 the Etobicoke Historical Society recognized the need to preserve it and in 1962 Louis Mayzel, a developer, purchased the inn and sold it to Etobicoke. During the 1960s the inn was renovated and furnished with appropriate 19th century Canadian, English and American antiques. The inn is now used extensively for school programs, rental for meetings, weddings and festivities, and serves daily teas from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. in a large, comfortable community room furnished with early-Ontario-style long tables and plank seated chairs, and warmed by a massive fireplace.

After the tour the members partook of the collective excellence of their culinary skills, the grape of France, and the enthusiastic carolling session led by Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Barrick.

In January, Peg McKelvey a full-time freelance writer and editor with a particular interest in Canadian history, and Merilyn McKelvey, urban planner, presented an illustrated lecture on their recently published book *Toronto: Carved in Stone*. Members were surprised and pleased to hear that Toronto has the best collection of buildings with decorative stone work in Canada, in fact, one of the best in North America. The lecture and the book include material on the stone buildings before 1867, the craftsmen and recycled buildings.

LACAC NEWS

It appears that Parkdale's historic Pressed Metal Showroom which was described and discussed at length in the last issue of ACORN, has been saved from the wrecking ball since Toronto City Executive gave the go-ahead without Council's approval to move the building to a temporary site east of Lamport Stadium. A December 31st demolition deadline forced the Executive to take matters into its own hands. Council was asked to confirm this action in January. The Lamport site will serve as a temporary home until May 31st at which time a permanent site must be found, according to an executive committee decision. Toronto region branch of A.C.O. would like to see this building moved to Sunnyside.

A group of buildings that many historians in Toronto are trying to save is composed of six small houses at Baseball Place, a short, private laneway built in 1899 next to the Toronto Baseball Grounds, Toronto's first baseball stadium. Built in 1893 at a cost of \$7,000.00 the stadium seated more than 2,000 fans under a covered grandstand. Tickets to the games cost 25 cents or 35 cents for reserved seats. The stadium has been long gone and if these small homes are torn down to increase the service and parking area for an adjacent car dealer, Baseball Place, the last major reminder of the city's first baseball complex will disappear. The homes are on the Toronto Historical Board inventory list and the Board plans to meet the new owners to see if the laneway and the houses can be preserved. The Toronto Region branch is exploring the possibility of restoring the row of houses into a museum of working-class life in the late 1800s. Mr. Michael McClelland of the T.H.B. has noted that such an alternative probably would not be feasible because of the expense. He has suggested that since these old buildings have functioned as homes for this long, then perhaps they should continue to do so.

Late in January, City Council voted 13-10 to allow the demolition of the only example of Italianate-Renaissance architecture in the downtown area: the bank on the southeast corner of Queen and Yonge

streets. Fidinam owner of the site, plans to save the brass doors, main portico, balustrades and railings. Some aldermen tried to save the bank by having it designated as historical under the Ontario Heritage Act, but others maintained that Council should honour a 1980 agreement with the developer and allow the bank to be destroyed.

HAMILTON-NIAGARA REGION

The distinct challenges of renovating a landmark downtown building for commercial use were described by a member and architect Trevor Garwood-Jones at the Hamilton-Niagara Branch's 1984 Annual Meeting held in the building in question, Park Place. As described in the last issue of ACORN, the 5 storey Thomas Watkins building, home of a department store since 1893, underwent a metamorphosis into a distinctive office and commercial complex which has received rave reviews since its opening last fall. Corham Developments graciously provided facilities for the Annual Meeting and after a brief talk in the meeting room, Garwood-Jones turned the lecture into a tour, guiding members around the commercial area of Park Place in order to illustrate the interaction of an historical structure with modern needs and building codes. This part of the meeting proved particularly interesting to the fifteen students of Caryl Kipper's Architectural Drafting course at Mohawk College who had come out to learn first-hand about the problems of restoration and renovation.

These problems are certainly current in Hamilton today. Controversy regarding restoration and demolition is currently swirling around the former Carnegie Library, a classically inspired cultural temple located in the heart of downtown Hamilton. Constructed in 1911, the library built by American steel dollars was replaced in 1930 with one built by Canadian tax dollars (and designed by ACO member Anthony Butler). The Carnegie library has been vacant ever since, a prime candidate for proposals for transformation into office space, a senior citizen's centre, a restaurant complex and most recently an 800 seat theatre.

The theatre proposal has been the most ambitious to date. Based on a \$105,000 feasibility study, the plans for the \$11.2 million dollar project called for stage facilities to be added to the rear of the building, with offices and a restaurant in the library itself. Plans also called for some concessions from local government in the form of a land grant and waived taxes, with the promise that the theatre would not subsequently make annual trips to feed at the municipal trough. Alas, the city fathers were not willing to play Carnegie and support the request for an initial endowment. In a decision which released a host of

charges and counter-charges about the tactfulness of the proposal's backers, the intelligence of the city councillors, and the ability of the civic bureaucracy to deal with the arts, the theatre proposal was rejected and the consortium of backers collapsed. The issue continues to bubble at the back of the municipal stove, particularly as some politicians with visions of wrecking balls dancing in their heads have called for 'clearing the site' in preparation for development. A flood of letters to the local newspaper followed, calling for preservation of the library and suggesting possible uses. Vox populi, vox dei. Two potential saviours of the Carnegie library have since appeared on the horizon, one public sector, one private sector. In the public sector, the library has been suggested as the new site for the over-crowded provincial Family Court; a decision on this may have to await the calm atmosphere of the upcoming provincial election. In the private sector, Corham Developments has proposed an \$18 million dollar project incorporating the library and displacing the Canadian Football Hall of Fame from its nondescript modernist bungalow behind the library into the Carnegie building itself. A brief site-clearing party — perhaps with certain politicians in attendance — would remove the Hall of Fame's former quarters and allow construction of an office building behind the library. The plan would both save the Carnegie building and provide space to ease overcrowding at City Hall next door.

In a more heartening development, member Norman Macdonald has directed the restoration of the former Court House in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Designed by William Thomas, the 1849 building housed the County Court until St. Catharines usurped the honour and profit in 1865, leaving the Niagara building to house only municipal offices. Provincial politics struck again with the coming of regional government in the 1970s, leading to the removal of municipal offices to Virgil and leaving the former courthouse occupied full time by only the library, the police, and the Chamber of Commerce, and sporadically by the Shaw Festival. Macdonald reports, "Our work at the building could best be termed an 'adaptive restoration' in that we had to integrate an enormous concealed air conditioning system, an elevator serving five levels, 6 ft. diameter chandeliers capable of seasonal removal, and other functions which permitted the building to provide 1934 amenities. All of the exterior walls were packed out with 2" of rigid insulation, plastered, and the original trim replaced. The two upper floor large halls were restored for use by the Shaw Festival Theatre and gala municipal functions and the north hall was refitted with a coffered plaster dome and roof lantern said to have been removed in the 1920s."

Returning to Hamilton, a vital hurdle has been

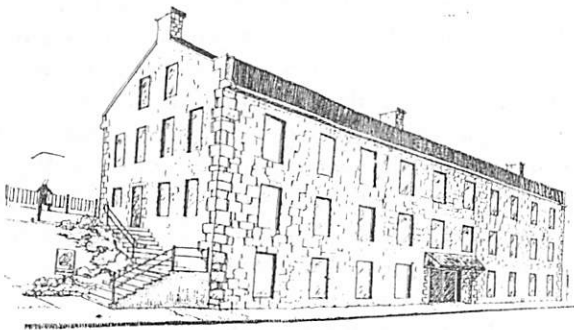
cleared in the drive to redevelop the city's waterfront with the appointment of consultants Coombes, Kirkland, and Berridge of Toronto to draw up plans for the project. The consultants come with impressive credentials, including Manhattan's Battery Park project and the redevelopment plans for the Buffalo waterfront. ACO members on the city's Waterfront Committee hope that redevelopment will stimulate the restoration of key heritage buildings in the area, most notably the 1860 Palladian/Italianate Customs House. The fine but forlorn stone structure has been home to pigeons since its previous occupant — a pasta factory — vacated some years ago. The Ontario Heritage Foundation is prepared to make funds available for the restoration of the Customs House, and ACO members hope that a general renewal of the Hamilton waterfront area will be the catalyst for the rebirth of the Customs House as well.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

G.R.C.A. to Decide Old Woolen Mill's Future

The oldest remaining textile factory in Cambridge may have its life prolonged. Members of LACAC, the Cambridge Heritage Foundation, and Cambridge Riverbank Development Advisory Committee have urged Cambridge Council to preserve the Old Woolen Mill, also known as the Purple Pool Hall, 36-38 Water Street.

This fine stone structure built in the 1840s and long used as a woolens factory, was bought by the



Old Woolen Mill

Grand River Conservation Authority (G.R.C.A.) in 1982. The intention was to tear down the factory in order to facilitate building a berm for flood control and to make way for a pumping station. But in 1932 the Ontario Heritage Foundation designated the structure of riverscape provincial significance, and in 1984 the same organization offered \$40,000 to upgrade the building. Added to this amount, the Regional Heritage Foundation would give \$4,000, and a generous anonymous donor would give \$30,000 to help with the cost of restoring the building. Further, Cambridge Council deferred specifying how

much it would allocate until cost of renovation was known.

Cambridge Council has debated the issue many times as to whether the building should be preserved or demolished. Finally it has turned the decision over to the G.R.C.A. with a recommendation that the building should be kept. G.R.C.A. in its turn has commissioned a study to determine whether it is financially feasible to keep the building. G.R.C.A. is aware that if it demolishes the structure it may have difficulty preserving the adjacent building which shares a common wall with the Old Woolen Mill. In the end it may be more economical to restore the building than to demolish it. Carlos Ventin, the architect responsible for renovating the new Cambridge Arts Theatre is enthusiastic about the building's potential. Certainly conservation groups are hopeful that the woolens factory will be restored.

BRANT COUNTY

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the ACO, Brant County Branch, installed as officers Lilia Scillitoe, President; Harold Gallant, Vice-President; Angela Files, Secretary; and Helga Sen, Treasurer. Alexander Johnston is Past President. Directors are Don Pettitt, Namik and Suzanne Tumerim, Kenneth Coles, Alan Scott and Andy Sywyk.

Slides by Violet Fair and Agnes Whittaker were compiled by Audrey Scott to show local examples of interesting doors and porticos in contrast with designs from Europe.

Classical prototypes were the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, with the neighbouring Erechtheon, and the Pantheon, Rome with its immense bronze doors. Locally, the portico at Echo Villa, Colborne Street, built in 1851 by the missionary Peter Jones, has a Greek-style pediment and a frieze with tryglyphs and metopes, and Doric-style fluted columns. In a modern style, the Bell building exhibits rectangular motifs in



Bell Building

windows, recessed portico, and façade proportions. The pillars, although square, have an affinity to those of the Parthenon.

Rounded arches from Rome to the Romanesque were seen in a Lych Gate at Stoke Poges in England, and in Brantford at 37 Dufferin Avenue and 92 Charlotte Street. Number thirty seven's side door shows remarkable affinities to the Lych Gate in decoration proportion design, even to the centre dropped finial.

The Gothic style, in its nineteenth-century resurgence, has many examples in Brantford and area. The Heritage Inn, Mount Pleasant has affinities with the portal of the Doge's Palace, Venice: The latter is ablaze with coloured marbles and decoration. Interest in the former centres on the shape of portico, upper and lower windows and gables. Multi-faceted pillars at 59 Dufferin Avenue have many Gothic antecedents — including rounded pilasters framing one of the doorways of Cologne Cathedral, Germany.

Symbolism in tracery was touched on in a door hood at West Street while elliptical arches were compared at a Mews, in London, a Stoke Poges Manor house, and a door and portico at 113 Dufferin Avenue, Brantford.

St. Basil's Church façade and portico has many affinities with those of Exeter Cathedral in England.

Emphasis on door surrounds was noted in the Twinklebones Teashop façade, St. George, as well as at Wells Cathedral, England, and the Stratford Theatre, Ontario, while ornate hinges were noted on St. John's Church door, Simcoe, with a prototype in Rye, England. The door at Lawfield, 25 William Street is a spectacular local example. There is a pointed arch with keystone, contrasting brick mouldings, and slender pillars framing the doorway. The latter show several design motifs.

Design features in the War Memorial, Edinburgh are echoed at 90 West Street in the portico of Thorpes Funeral Home, while the sharply pointed tympanum of Paris Plains cobblestone church echoes the lines of the arches of Melrose Abbey.

"Gingerbread" as exemplified in a portal at 37 Wellington Street. A portico at 135 Sydenham Street has origins in the type of tracery shown in the door at Exeter Cathedral, and in round-arched porticos in a terrace in London, England.

Decorated doors at Pisa Cathedral and St. Peter's Rome, have no new world compeers: but in Brant-

ford, the charm of the Court House door has its own elegance. The door at 83 Dufferin Avenue has a simple dignity with two glass panels and a rounded transom. At Wynarden or Yates Castle, several ogee-shaped doors and arches follow the Tudor Renaissance styling as seen in examples at Cambridge University.

Other interesting doors in Brantford can be found at 21 Maple Avenue with a board and batten background, and at the Thorpe Funeral Home where the interior door is flanked by leaded glass designs in an organic pattern.

Georgian and Regency styles in Brantford have antecedents at Hampton Court, England, and in Plantation houses in New Orleans. The local examples all with side-lights and transoms, are the doors at 122 Dufferin, and at 90 Lorne Crescent. The Georgian styling at the Robert Nixon home in St. George, with its Neo-Gothic surroundings, is an example of a mid-19th century door in a later setting.

As the entrance to buildings housing our persons and personalities, doors form a fascinating study both in their European and local examples.

General Meeting

An interested group welcomed Dr. Helen Dow, Professor of Fine Arts, Guelph University, as speaker to the general meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Lilia Scillitoe, President, and held at the St. Paul Avenue Branch of the Public Library.

Dr. Dows' address, accompanied by slides, dealt with various styles of European architecture and their use in Canada. The log cabin, she explained was not only an early dwelling style, but also a style used throughout the 19th century. Most logs were squared rather than left in their original state. Loyalist or Regency-style buildings were explained. Those with enclosing verandahs owed inspiration to the British Colonial Empire, especially in India where refuge from the heat was sought. The simple centre-hall two bay plan was also demonstrated with both European and Canadian examples.

Greek Revival features pointed out were those of the Doric Order with its lack of pillar plinth, simple capital and architrave. Tryglyph design, said Miss Dow, may have originated from wooden prototypes of supporting beams.

In Canada, Miss Dow explained the style might be up to 50 years late in appearing from its origins in Europe. The republican idealism of Roman-style architecture in the U.S. was mentioned. The "Grange" at the rear of the Ontario Art Gallery with portico pillars was used as a Canadian example.

Classical details which came to Canada through The European Renaissance and Baroque styles were exemplified by Miss Dow in Hampton Court Palace near London, England. Benjamin Latrobes' work in



Brant County Courthouse

Baltimore was illustrated.

Very popular details in windows and arcades as copies from Palladio were pointed out. The fact that banks, not churches were currently the important buildings in the Greek style, considered moralistic, was mentioned by Miss Dow. Further examples are (1721) St. Martin's In the Fields, London: the U.S. Capital Building (1812) and Osgoode Hall, Toronto. The Brantford Court House was used as a modified example.

Late Victorian Italianate structures were discussed along with their European Prototypes such as the Palazzo Rucelli in Italy. Note was made of the fortress-like main floor (where business was ordinarily conducted and the increasing lightness of succeeding upper storeys. Italianate structures in Canada have Classical details coming to us through the less pure channels of the Renaissance. A Canadian Italianate example given was the Alan Gowans home at Napanee with its cupola and "widows walk".

It is Miss Dow's opinion that the Canadian Italianate style was largely inspired by Queen Victoria's Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

The Neo-Gothic style was exemplified by Miss Dow in Wesley Church, St. Thomas, built in 1842. A Gothic Latrobe building was erected in Washington Square in 1805. The Anglican Church in Vittoria, Ontario is a more local example. The Parliament Buildings in Ottawa (both sets) were part of the Gothic revival. The library was copied from the English cathedral chapter house.

An interesting comment was that the interplay of light and shade on Gothic "bargeboard" trim was related to impressionistic painting.

Richardsonian Romanesque, a heavy style featuring red brick and stone originated, said Miss Dow, in Chicago. An example in Canada was the Town Hall in St. Mary's. The Legislative buildings in Toronto also show the heavy rusticated stone construction and wide round arches characteristic of the style. The Picturesque aspect of later Victorian styles was mentioned, and several examples were given.

Dr. Dow's lecture was particularly appropriate for the group assembled. The members of which had earlier studied the influence of European doors on those in Canada.

Refreshments were served to the meeting by Alexandra Johnston, and Harold and Lesia Gallant. Angela Files, Secretary, read the minutes of the last General Meeting. Special presentations were made to thank executive members for their contributions. Alexandra Johnston, past President, was honoured for her efforts in reducing a debt incurred to assist those responsible for attempting to save the former Central School. Audrey Scott, Don Pettitt, and Dorothy Cammell were honoured with presentations for past

service to the organization. A presentation was made to Dr. Dow to thank her for her contributory lecture.

HURON COUNTY

Two important restorations were completed in Huron County during 1984. Another, badly needed, is very much in limbo. Cardno's Opera Hall on Main Street in Seaforth is the most outstanding building on the street which has been designated as a Heritage District. At street level it houses stores. The second storey is made up entirely of the former opera house which remains as it was when in use. Above all is a clock tower. The renovation was to the exterior including the clock which is again informing the passer-by of the correct time.

After years of controversy the restorations of Clinton's Public Library and its Town Hall are now accomplished. Both are most attractive inside and out. In the Town Hall a theatre takes up the entire second floor. It is notable for the decorative trim around its proscenium arch, beautiful windows and its sparkling (original) brass chandelier. This restoration makes a fine companion to that of the Exeter Town Hall 20 miles south on the road to London.

In Bayfield a Corporate Sectors Grant has been approved for work on the Gairdner House on Main Street. This imposing residence was built in 1853 and forms a unique part of the streetscape of Bayfield's Heritage District. It has always housed a store in one portion of the ground floor which in earlier times included the post office.

The Huron County Pioneer Museum in Goderich is known far and wide for its outstanding collection of pioneer artifacts. It was established by Huron County Council at the instigation of Herbert Neill who gave his private collection to the County and acted as curator for many years adding to it at much personal sacrifice. The collection was housed in a vacated school building on North Street. Built in 1856 in Elizabethan style the building is itself the most notable item belonging to the museum. Metal additions have been made in the meantime to house such things as a steam railway engine, threshing machines, carriages, horse drawn hearses.

In 1983 an engineering study revealed that the roof structure of the school portion was unsound, and the museum was partially closed for 1984. A feasibility study brought attention to the lack of fire protection, adequate exits, humidity control, and aggressive programming among other deficiencies. To bring the complex up to modern museum standards would be phased over 5 years and cost 2.5 million. The proposal has met considerable resistance in most municipalities outside Goderich and Bayfield and has been turned down again by Huron County Council at its February meeting.

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

BYRON NEARLY BYGONE

Presented by Ruth Chapman
at the November Annual General Meeting

Byron, located on the Thames River at the western edge of the city of London, is best known for Springbank Park with Storybook Garden. The large Sanatorium for tubercular patients has given way to the Children's Psychiatric Research Institute.

When first settled around 1800, Americans came up the river from Detroit to farm. By 1820 the thriving community known as "Westminster", the township name, boasted about fifteen taverns, stores and mills. One of the tavern keepers moved five miles up river to The Forks and became the first settler in London in 1826. Byron inhabitants were industrious, prosperous and independent through the years, and objected strenuously to annexation by London in 1961. We have struggled to maintain our identity, but are being overwhelmed by all the new buildings in and around us.

Among the few remaining Byron buildings are the Flint Cottages. In 1837, Robert Flint, a fisherman from England, built a cobblestone cottage for his family. Byron is on the Ingersoll Moraine, so there is an abundance of stones and rocks. For his son, Pirnie Flint's marriage in 1857, Robert Flint built another



Renovated Flint Cottage, May '84.

Photo by Roy Kerr

cobblestone cottage, located in Springbank Park now, and restored as pictured in 1980 for the use of the Garden Club of London. When the city turned to the wells in this area for drinking water, around 1878, the land was bought from the Flints and the Pumpmaster lived in this cottage. In 1965 the City shut down the Springbank wells, and now gets all the water needed through a pipeline from Lake Huron. This Flint cottage thus became vacant. Both houses were allowed to deteriorate badly, and the city hoped to



Pirnie Flint Home built 1857 by his father Robert Flint Sr. Now used by Garden Clubs 1980.

Photo by Roy Kerr

get rid of them. "It would make cutting the grass so much easier," argued the Park Superintendent. Through the efforts of LACAC, ACO, and the London & Middlesex Historical Society, an Ontario Heritage grant was obtained and the houses saved. The PUC has not approved any of the suggested uses for the older cobblestone cottage, and it may become public washrooms. Across Byron's Commissioners Road is the third Flint home, typical of the 1880s. Few of the rough cobblestone cottages built by Robert Flint survive. One on the main street is a store now, modernized with angelstone front and asphalt roof. But from the sides and rear the cobblestones can be seen, and a tin roof too.

St. Anne's Anglican Church in Byron was completed in 1855 by Robert Flint, when volunteers picked up the stones from the fields and hand-mixed the mortar. It still serves a proud and faithful congregation, who added a rear addition in 1937.



St. Anne's Church

Photo supplied by Roy Kerr

The brick pump house of 1881 was the work of Architect Tracy of Robinson, Tracy & Durand. Water from Springbank had to be pumped to the top of nearby Reservoir Hill, from where it could flow several miles into the city. City Councillor James Egan, a promoter of the waterworks scheme, also started the planting of London's trees, which led to the name of The Forest City.

What began as the Blue Bell Inn circa 1870 has been moved beside the Thames and survived two severe floods which swept away neighbouring buildings. The frame cottage with ornamental spooled verandah has been lovingly restored by Jean Watt and Gordon Kidd. Her late father was an architect in London's Watt & Blackwell firm. This site may be part of a highrise apartment threat to Byron.

Surviving buildings on Hall's Mills Road include an original Dame School with a second part added in 1876, by the woollen mill family of Griffith. The front double doors to the central hall admitted Byron readers to their first public library, around 1900. The floors are of chestnut, and the main woodwork of Georgian (Southern) pine in its natural tone. The interesting Griffith Barn is also built of chestnut, the upper part stored bales of wool when the lower was horse stabling and carriage shed.

Now see what has happened to the main corner of our lovely village since London annexed Byron in 1961. A sprawling mall, a typical flat, boxy bank building and an ugly concrete commercial corner known as the Byron Bunker are what you see next to the serene beauty of over 300 acres of Springbank Park. Nothing has been learned from this, for planning continues for numerous 12 to 14 storey highrise apartment towers right on the opposite bank of the Thames now. We press for OMB hearings and must keep Eternal Vigilance as our watchword.

THE HAMLET

Presented by Carel Kippers
at the 1984 Annual General Meeting

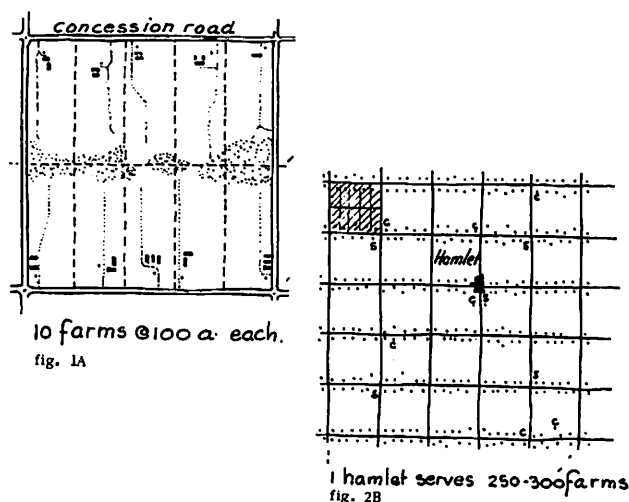
For us a hamlet is a collection of small buildings grouped at the cross roads of two secondary highways, but to geographers it is an Urban Place. To them Urban Places are places of exchange of goods and services, and the hamlet is the smallest member in the family of such places. Now, there is no reason why we should relinquish our own cherished image of the cross-road clustering, but some of the geographers' concepts may be useful to a better understanding of the remnants of the nineteenth century Ontario hamlet and its place in the life of that time.

Let's look at maps of Ontario (you will need several at varying scales and various dates) and concentrate on a small 1200 square kilometer sample

area between Clinton, Winham, Listowel and Mitchell. There are now fewer than 1500 farms, but in 1875 there were more than 3,000. These farms were served by eleven hamlets and two or three villages. On the basis of these statistics, then, 200 to 250 farms would require one hamlet, and four to five hamlets would require one village. Stratford, the nearest regional market town, would have served a much greater area than our thirty-five by thirty-five kilometer sample.

In the nineteenth century a forty hectare (100 acre) farm was a fairly standard agricultural unit and these farms were dispersed along the concession roads which were spaced approximately two kilometers apart in both directions.

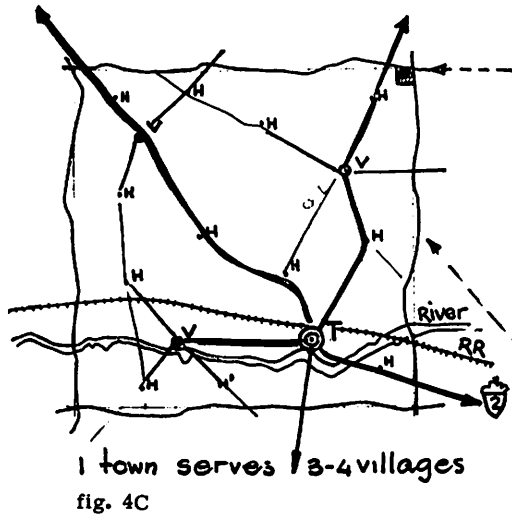
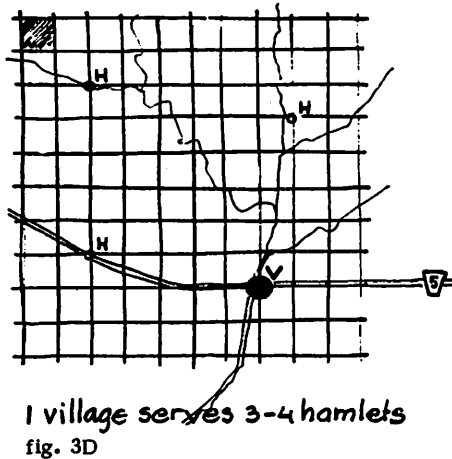
Figure 1 shows a fairly typical arrangement of a four square kilometer concession with ten (40 hectare) farms.



At strategic and conveniently accessible locations schools would be built so that the children would not have to walk further than the legendary mile and a half. Churches would be built wherever land was donated, and a general store might have been erected at centrally located cross roads. These stores would not survive for very long unless they were convenient, centrally located and well stocked in clothing and shoes, hardware and food the farmers did not grow themselves. A successful store, a church and a school together with the housing for shopkeeper, schoolteacher and minister may have formed the nucleus of growth and enticed other services (a blacksmith maybe) to locate there. Survival and growth depended on success.

Figure 2 shows a 100 square kilometer area with twenty-five concessions and a hamlet as service center centrally located. Note that schools, S, serve a much smaller area and churches, C, are randomly located.

Figure 3 shows an area of 400 square kilometers with four hamlets, one of which has grown into a village because it has facilities which not only cater to its own area but also the area of the other three hamlets. Examples of the services would be a bank, a post office, an inn, a doctor, repair shops, maybe a feedmill.

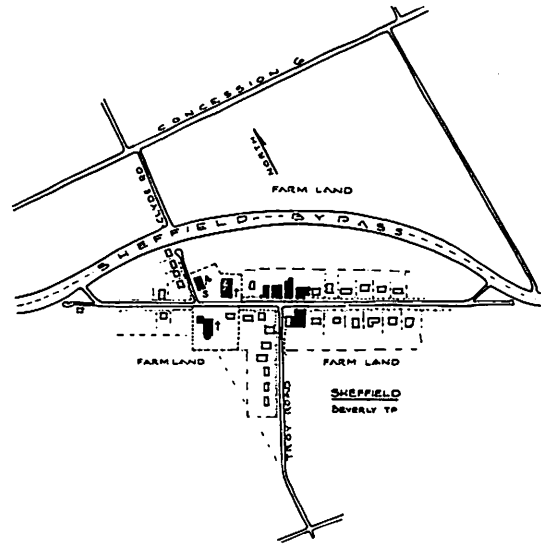


The story continues in Figure 4 where a small market town serves an area of 1600 square kilometers. It may have a registry or other government office, small manufacturing plants and it is strategically located along water, road and railways.

The story, contained in the four diagrams, should not spur us into a frantic reclassification of all the urban places we encounter: rather it is meant to see any given place as a service center within the context of which it was once a part. It matters little whether we call a settlement a large hamlet or a small village as long as we are aware of the interlocking system of interdependent centers. The level of farm technology, the quality of roads and transportation infrastructure, the speed and capacity of the vehicles, food storage techniques, food preservation methods and marketing systems all determine the frequency of occurrence

and size of urban places and the hamlet should be viewed with all those factors in mind. A change in any of these factors has repercussions and corresponding changes in the hamlet.

Let us now look at the large hamlet or the small village of Sheffield on Highway 8 between Hamilton and Galt. (fig. 5). The Sheffield bypass has greatly improved its chances of survival as an entity since



old Highway 8 now carries only local traffic. Sheffield is a cross-roads settlement, but for geographic reasons the Troy Road does not line up with the Clyde Road. Houses are indicated in white, institutional uses (two churches and a school) are lightly hatched, and the commercial services of the C.B.D. (Central Business District) have been blackened in. Sheffield has a clearly defined sharp edge against the surrounding farmland.

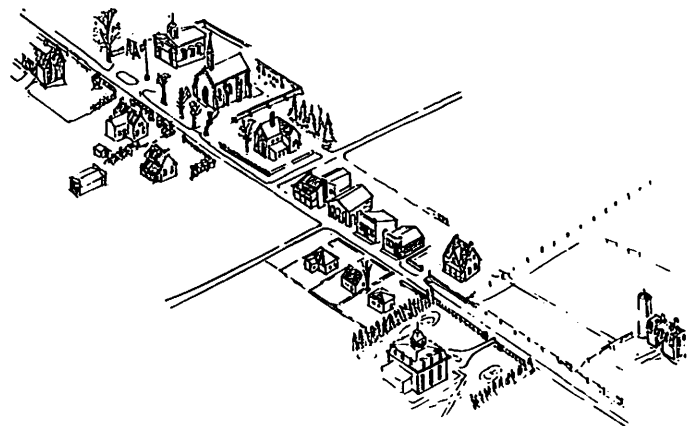


Figure 6 gives a modified and simplified version of Sheffield; the number of buildings has been reduced. There are a number of characteristics we may observe:

(1) The edge of the settlement is clearly defined; farms press in on all sides. Unlike towns and larger market villages, where the settlement gradually becomes more dense, it is compact, cohesive and clearly

defined. See also photograph 7.

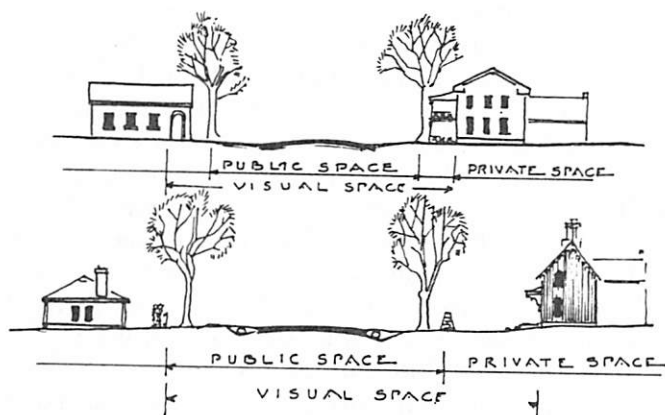
(2) The buildings forming the C.B.D. stand close to the road. Customers would not hesitate to cross the shallow transition zone between public and private space formed by the arcades, verandahs and side-walks.



(3) The institutional buildings are surrounded by social space (the school playground, the church lawn for weddings and the strawberry festivals).

(4) Residences separate public space from private space through the use of fences, hedges and drystone walls. We are allowed to look into this space (sometimes) but we hesitate to actually enter. Note that the closer the house is placed to the road the denser and higher the separation. The larger house in the foreground has an open wrought iron fence and large formal lawn to achieve separation.

(5) The scale of the environment changes as we travel closer to the C.B.D. (See figures 8a and 8b).



Much of the charm and the sense of place of Sheffield depends on those characteristics. The sequence of small scale elements, the arrangements and textures all joined together by the now mature trees and the nostalgic nineteenth century character are proclaiming a total environment that attracts many city dwellers. Visually there is not much change except for some recently built houses at either end of old Highway 8. But Sheffield is no longer a central urban place in the geographer's sense of the word. The

surrounding farms are fewer but larger, and they are highly mechanized. They are within comfortable driving distance of city supplies and city conveniences. With their self-contained workshop they do not need Sheffield. The improved highway brings in the Hamiltonians and they bring the city with them. The function of Sheffield is changing from a small urban center serving the needs of the surrounding agricultural area to a small bedroom community centered on the nearby cities. Should we be concerned? If the buildings are there then Sheffield is still there, right? Not quite! The old social fabric has created the quality of the environment and sense of place which is now attracting the new population. This new population needs different services and different functions. Some of these new services can be housed in the old C.B.D., others will need new construction or alterations. And what are the forms that will take? Remodelling, Renovation, "Earlying up", Replicas and "Historicizing" are the present day modes, especially of those who work without good advice. Preservation of the quality of the environment, preservation of the sense of place does not require any of the above methods. This can be done equally as well with modern buildings, using the prevailing scale, using similar or compatible materials. The interaction of public with private spaces and the demarcation of space through the use of small scale elements is not dependent on the age nor the style of the building. The match is achieved by creative people who observe the examples in the existing environment.

Places like Sheffield are by no means extraordinary nor are they rare finds. It is fortunate that Ontario possesses many such small places, each with its own identity, its own sense of place. Most of these places may be enjoyed without knowing the names of the individuals who built them. It is obvious that they were creations of people who cared and such places will continue to exist if we care and if we have the courage and sensitivity to build in our own styles, in harmony with what went on before us. This will assure that the sense of place is maintained and Ontario's Sheffield's will be enjoyed by those who come after us.

PORT BRITAIN

Presented by A. K. Sculthorpe
at the November Annual General Meeting

Port Britain was first settled in 1796 or 97 by Samuel William Marsh, a United Empire Loyalist from Vermont. Port Britain grew into a 19th century industrial village, but almost all vestige of Port Britain's industrial activities have disappeared. The village grew slowly until the immense immigration from Great Britain in the 1850s, when the village increased quite quickly. The years 1856-57 were

boom years, with land speculation and activities created by the building of the harbour by the Port Britain Harbour Company and the railway by the Grand Trunk Railway. There was over speculation in both land and railway. After the general financial depression in Upper Canada in 1857-58 Port Britain started to decline.

When Samuel Marsh first arrived, he was obliged to have his grain ground in Belleville. This was before 1798, as before that there was no mill in Port Hope. Samuel Marsh's first house was built on a point of land that has since eroded. His second house, a much larger building having two fireplaces, was built where a distinctive clump of lilac now grows. The indentation of the foundation of Samuel Marsh's house can be seen in the shadow of the lilac. Some of the hand-hewn timbers from this house are incorporated in a steel barn in the hamlet.

Samuel Marsh built Port Britain Mill. In the hamlet is a piece of the millstone brought from France before 1800. By 1807 the Port Britain Mill had one run of stone and a lumber saw; in later years its capacity was increased to two stone. The grinding surface was made up of pieces fitted together and then faced. Added weight and strength were given by five or six inches of plaster of paris on the top side. The stones weighed about a ton each and were worth \$500 a pair. During the ensuing years the mill, in the busy season, would work night and day. The saw was the upright kind and cut on the downward thrust. The mill burned in 1874 and was rebuilt a smaller mill without the sawmill component.

Only if you are really looking for evidence of the mill can you find an indication of where it was. A stone is all that shows of the mill foundation. A timber shows where the dam was. The stream now meanders through what used to be all millpond.

And so the village grew slowly but steadily. A stone house was built in 1856 by stonemason James Reeve for Robert Marsh. A name written in the Stone House window by a Marsh daughter with her engagement ring can still be seen. James Reeve also built a buried vault for Robert Marsh. It is a limestone vault, beautifully built with a barrel vaulted ceiling. It was built into the rise of land and is completely covered except for the door.

Around the corner in the middle of the village, the main intersection, is where the second Bible Christian Church was situated. This church was used until the Bible Christian Church joined with the United Church when the church building in Port Britain was no longer used. Next to the church was the blacksmith shop. There is a pair of andirons made here that are still in use in Port Britain today. There is a foundation for a barn that was still standing in 1950 but gradually fell down bit by bit. Across the stream

is an early barn, probably 1840-50. About the turn of the century it was moved from a flat area to the slope in order to provide stabling underneath the barn.

Next we proceed up Jane Street, Port Britain's only street and a short one at that. It was named for Jane Ostrand, Samuel Marsh's wife, who came from the Picton area. Here is a delightful Ontario cottage with Flemish rowlock bond brick work. This exposes the large surface of the brick, which gives the wall a most unusual look. It is interesting to note that this type of brick work is used in Prince Edward County but rarely in this area. As Jane Ostrand came from Picton, is there any connection?

Next we amble up the stream. Across the stream is the Mill House again. We see the depression where the first Bible Christian Church was built overlooking the pond, since filled in. Further upstream we see the pool where the cooper's mill used to be. Not much sign of it is left now. Then on to the spot where the stream flows through under the Canadian National Railway. Due to erosion the original Grand Trunk tracks had to be moved back from the shoreline just after the turn of the century. This, for a time, brought employment and activity to Port Britain, but with it came disaster, as yards of earth brought in to build the embankment across Port Britain valley were washed downstream. The earth not only silted in the millpond but filled in the harbour.

Next we go to the present marsh looking back at the village. Then we look to the lake. It was here that the harbour was built in 1857. All that is left now is piling that is rotting away. It was here where the rail line was so close to the harbour that the first locomotive was unloaded. After the railway was moved and the harbour silted in, it reverted to being an excellent wildlife marsh and a bird sanctuary. There is a plaque to Harold Reeve, historian, farmer, and naturalist, who more than 60 years ago bought the land surrounding the marsh to protect it. The bridge was erected by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists as a memorial to Mr. Reeve. It is a typical Hope Township bridge of the 19th century. Unfortunately they are disappearing. Much of the material I have used is from Mr. Reeve's History of Port Britain.

By 1948 Port Britain had only 24 residents. Now it is showing renewed activity. There are two agribusinesses in its midst. There is a farm implement dealer in the middle of the village and a grain business at one of the farms in the valley with dryer and grain storage bins. Forty-eight people now live in the village.

We can only hope that renewed activity and probable increase in building will be done with sensitivity and good taste and a feeling for the ambiance of the village.

COVER STORY

The Midland House,
John Street,
Port Hope, Ontario

Some buildings go, but a few, like the Midland House in Port Hope, have a remarkable reincarnation. Here it is with its original front back in place, an unexpectedly Greek Revival. For years it was remembered for its overhanging balcony and clapboard exterior, but careful checking of these features by building archaeology revealed that these were much later changes possibly following an 1886 fire in the south end (the right hand half) of the building.

Sufficient samples of the ashlar-patterned stucco survived below the later siding to enable this restoration and most of the fascinating architraves with their elegant taper, acroteria and pediment outline were still in place, some mildly mutilated by the balcony. Even a bracket and part of the cornice remained, and a built-in gutter was also an original detail. The carriageway on the ground floor had been filled in for over a century, but evidence of the arrangement was clear, and even corroborated, albeit from the rear, by an early photograph.



Midland House, 1970 view of the building when it was divided into three maisonettes.

Photo by Peter John Stokes

The building is actually a composite, the first portion the right-hand three bays a self-contained unit, probably constructed in the late 1840s as a private house just prior to the coming of the Port Hope to Lindsay railway (later the Midland) started in the early 1850s. The rest appears to be an extension to fill the lot and make it into a hotel taking advantage of its proximity to the new railway. The earlier section contains more elaborate detail, of a heavy Greek Revival type with corner blocks and pilaster trim originally ornamented with a row of large



Midland House, Oct. 1984, original structure revealed.

Photo by Philip Authier

paterae, a bold if not rather ponderous treatment later removed. This part also had a basement kitchen and a fireplace on the ground floor. The section to the left, comprising carriageway and the matching three bay front beyond, is the addition to extend the building for its function as a local hotel which continued until it was converted into maisonettes about 1917.

The new layout devised by the owner, our former President, A. K. Sculthorpe, and the contractor, Rod Stewart (of Rod Stewart Construction Limited in charge of the project), provides for two apartments upstairs and commercial space, suitable for offices or specialty stores, on the ground floor. This outstanding transformation was undertaken with the help of the Ontario Heritage Foundation which contributed to the conservation and restoration aspects of the work.

Peter John Stokes

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AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

THE GARDEN CLUBS OF ONTARIO

The Garden Clubs of Ontario circulated a questionnaire to be filled out by March 1, 1985, requesting the names and locations of historic garden restorations in Ontario. If you have any knowledge of these in your area, perhaps you would inform that organization, addressing your information to The Garden Clubs of Ontario, 33 Glenview Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1P5, to help fill out their roster.

PARKS CANADA

To complement the activities being organized by Parks Canada, the Minister of the Environment established the National Parks Centennial Citizens' Committee as a non-profit organization with representatives from each province and territory. Its mandate is to encourage communities and organizations across Canada to develop their own heritage related projects

under the banner of Heritage '85. Free publications are available upon request from the NPCCC including "*Getting the Help You Need*", "*How to Attract The Media to Your Heritage '85 Activities*" and "*100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years*". For further information write, Heritage '85, (NPCCC), 253 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 1N1.

SARNIA

The 92 year old Lawrence House, a city landmark noted by the Ontario Heritage Foundation as a rare example of 'Queen Anne' architecture, is to be restored to its former grandeur through a corporate contribution by Suncor Inc. The company is donating \$500,000 for the restoration of the building and its operation as a centre for the arts. The contribution will mark the dedication of Suncor's \$335 million upgrading of its Sarnia refinery and Suncor's involvement in the Sarnia community for over 30 years.

COMING EVENTS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bridge To The Future

A centennial celebration of the Brooklyn Bridge. Edited by Margaret Latimer. \$75.00 U.S. To order, write The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, U.S.A.

Kitchener: An Illustrated History

For details contact Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin, Dept. of History, University of St. Jerome's College, Waterloo, Ont. N2L 3G3, co-author.

Fishermen and Merchants in 19th Century Gaspé
By Roch Samson

This publication analyzes the way Gaspé society was influenced by the way it produced dried cod.

A Frontier Fur Trade Blacksmith Shop 1796-1812

By John D. Light and Henry Unglik

Reports on archaeological work done at St. Joseph Island, Ontario in 1978.

Parks Canada has produced two new publications in its series "Studies in Archaeology, Architecture, and History. Titles available from Research Publications, Parks Canada, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ottawa Ont., K1A 1G2

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